

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)  
**QUARTERLY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DD) COUNCIL REPORT**  
 (Submitted for 2ND Quarter 2019)

June 20, 2019

**SERVICES**

**Developmental Disability Waiver Activities**

The following figures reflect **waiver activities thus far in state fiscal year 2018-2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 14, 2019)**:

<b>WAIVER</b>	<b>Offers # *</b>	<b>Linkages # ***</b>	<b>Certifications</b>
<b>NOW</b>	6	51	66
<b>Children’s Choice</b>	689	585	441
<b>Supports</b>	659	526	217
<b>ROW**</b>	80	394	345

*\* This is the number of unique individuals made an offer or final offer during this time period.*

*\*\* Includes offers and linkages made under OAAS to ROW transitions.*

*\*\*\* An individual made a CC or Supports offer may request an exception and be linked to the ROW or NOW.*

The following figures reflect **total waiver numbers as of June 10, 2019**:

	<b>Total # Slots Allocated</b>	<b>Total Participants linked, but not certified</b>	<b>Total # Certifications</b>	<b>Total # Vacant Slots</b>
<b>Mixed I/DD Waivers</b>	13,334	679	12,612	43

**Request for Services Registry (RFSR) as of May 31, 2019:**

- Developmental Disability (DD) RFSR = 13,435
  - Individuals with urgent/emergent unmet needs (SUN score 3/4) = 0 (offers made to all as screened and identified 3 or 4 – 294 in process)
  - Individuals with current needs met (SUN score 0/1/2) = 7,373
  - Individuals with no identified unmet needs = 4,469
  - Individuals in process of scheduling / receiving screening = 1,299

**Supports Waiver and Children’s Choice Waiver** - The Supports Waiver and the Children’s Choice Waiver renewal applications have been approved; the renewals are for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2019.

**New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)** - The amendment to the New Opportunities Waiver for complex care reimbursement was posted for public comment from April 10, 2019 through May 10, 2019. No comments were received from the public. The amendment was then resubmitted to the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on May 15, 2019. Approval has not yet been received.

**Residential Options Waiver (ROW)**

- **ROW/Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) Transition** - The implementation phase of the CMS approved transition of OAAS Community Choices Waiver (CCW) and Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) participants who have an OCDD Statement of Approval (SOA) to the ROW is in its final stages. This transition, at its conclusion, will have affected approximately 250 people.
  - Two hundred-thirty-two (232) people have completed the transition and are receiving ROW services.
  - Sixteen (16) participants are currently linked to the ROW and are in the planning/approval process at this time.
  - Five (5) cases have been closed for the following reasons: 1 - death; 2 - entered nursing facilities; 1 - entered an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID); and 1 - family refused OAAS and OCDD services.
- **ROW Amendment 2019** - The entire draft application was posted for public comment from April 10, 2019 through May 10, 2019. One comment was submitted in support of the amendment. Submission to CMS is anticipated by the end of June 2019. Rulemaking is required, and the required document drafts have been submitted internally within the Department. The following are the proposed changes to provide greater access to services/supports for ROW participants:
  - Adding Monitored In-Home Care (MIHC) as a new service;
  - Changing Day Habilitation, Pre-Vocational, and group employment rate methodologies from a 2.5-hour unit rate to a 15-minute unit rate (to align with Supports and New Opportunity Waiver rates);
  - Clarifying: One-time transitional services (Transitional Expenses Planning and Approval - TEPA) are designed to assist individuals in making the transition from an institution to their own home or apartment in the community of their choice;
  - (Under Community Living Services): Removing exclusion of parents of adult children as paid staff. A parent may be paid staff of a provider agency as long as he/she is not the legally responsible person or authorized representative for waiver; and
  - Adding language to allow ROW participants on a case-by-case basis to exceed their individually assessed ROW acuity/budget to prevent institutionalization as approved by the OCDD Assistant Secretary/designee;

Note: Rulemaking cleanup will restore language to original birth to end of life as well.

## **Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (PSSC) - Transition Status**

The following figures reflect transition activities from January 1, 2019 thru June 7, 2019:

- The census of Pinecrest Supports and Services Center to date is 404.
- In 2018, PSSC admitted 32 individuals and discharged 39. So far in 2019, 19 people have been admitted and 14 people have been discharged.
- Eighteen participants are currently planning for a transition from the center.
  - One person is anticipated to transition within the next 30 days.
  - Six people are anticipated to transition within the next quarter.

## **EarlySteps**

- As of June 1, 2019, the EarlySteps program was providing services to 5,619 children and their families, an increase of 155 children compared to June 1, 2018.
- The EarlySteps advisory council, the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC), will have its next meeting on July 11, 2019. The State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) improvement area workgroups (Family Assessment, Services Supporting Family Priorities and Team-Based Practice Supports) will meet on the morning of the SICC meeting. There are currently two openings on the SICC for the early intervention provider positions. Interested applicants can contact Melanie Washington, SICC Executive Director at the following link: [melanie.washington@la.gov](mailto:melanie.washington@la.gov).
- A new SSIP workgroup will begin reviewing data and planning improvement activities in the areas of Evaluation and Assessment in EarlySteps. A cross-agency/cross-role group of approximately eighteen persons has agreed to participate. Most of the meetings will be “webinar-format” meetings; the first meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2019. Anyone interested in this improvement area is welcome to participate in activities that will further align EarlySteps practices with the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Recommended Practices, the evidence-based practices utilized by EarlySteps.
- The DD Council-funded *Inclusive Child Care Capacity Building* Project team conducted its first two training activities in June 2019. The first training was held in Baton Rouge with 30 attending, and the second training was held in New Orleans with 60 attending. Participants were professionals from across the early childhood field including child care teachers and directors, early interventionists, Child Care Resource and Referral Trainers, EarlySteps Regional Coordinators, Local Education Agency (LEA) Early Childhood representatives, as well as the Department of Education representatives. Prior to the events, all participants reviewed the online webinar developed by DEC “*Supporting Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities in Child Care Settings: How Collaboration Supports Inclusion*” and completed a pre-training assignment. At the end of each session, coaching teams comprising early interventionists and child care center staff were identified for the next implementation steps consisting of six onsite coaching sessions. An additional training activity in July or August 2019 is planned for Region 9 as the next target site.

- US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs follow-up with Louisiana:
  - The EarlySteps Application for Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - Part C funds was submitted on May 3, 2019. The proposed allocation is \$7,015,177, an increase of \$22,274 from last year. There are no program changes proposed in the application.
  - EarlySteps received its annual performance report “determination” the week of June 17, 2019. Louisiana moved from Needs Assistance (2nd ranking) to Meets Requirements. The changes made as a result of the SSIP work contributed to this improved determination.

## **INITIATIVES**

### **Employment**

- Through a collaboration with the Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs (GODA), Louisiana was able to receive the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP) Core grant from the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). Through this grant, two OCDD vocational providers in two regions (3 and 4) met with a technical assistance (TA) expert to provide guidance regarding Provider Transformation. Those onsite visits occurred in March and April 2019. The TA expert will be providing a report to each provider with recommendations; the providers will continue to receive TA through phone calls through the month of August 2019. Each of these regions also participated in a Capacity Building meeting that was facilitated by a TA expert provided by the grant. The goal of these meetings was to begin a regional team that can assist in furthering the Employment First Initiative and to build partnerships within the community that will enhance the initiative. Both of those meetings were very successful. This grant will end in August 2019. OCDD is planning to use these regions as a model to duplicate this effort in all of the other regions.
- With financial assistance from the DD Council, OCDD will be facilitating an online Employment training program to provide training to OCDD Central Office, Local Governing Entities (LGE), Support Coordinators, and vocational providers. This will allow participants to have a better understanding of employment for people with disabilities and what it means for the individuals that OCDD serves. All of the LGEs and OCDD Central Office have been introduced to the system, and the plan is to have providers trained by December 2019, thereby allowing all participants to have six months to complete the training.
- OCDD and the LGEs continue to work with vocational providers offering individual assistance which will support them to move into compliance with the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule by March 17, 2020. OCDD continues to provide various trainings based on topics that were requested by providers; employment roundtable discussions in each area; onsite technical support; and various other technical guidance needed to assist providers with meeting the deadline.

### **Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule Activities**

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has not yet received final approval on the Statewide Transition Plan (STP) that was submitted to Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the state's plan to come into compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule. Prior to submitting the STP for final approval, LDH will incorporate stakeholder responses into the plan and complete statewide systemic assessment and validation activities. Upon completion, the plan will be posted for public comment prior to being submitting to CMS.

OCDD is on target to complete the following activities in the Fall 2019:

- Complete comprehensive site-specific assessments of all HCBS settings, implement necessary strategies for validating the assessment results, and include the outcomes of these activities within the STP;
- Draft remediation strategies and corresponding timelines which will resolve issues that the site-specific settings assessment process and subsequent validation strategies identified by the end of the HCBS Settings Rule transition period;
- Outline a detailed plan for identifying settings that are presumed to have institutional characteristics, including qualities that isolate HCBS beneficiaries, as well as the proposed process for evaluating these settings and preparing for submission to CMS for review under Heightened Scrutiny;
- Develop a process for communicating with participants who are currently receiving services in settings that the state has determined cannot or will not come into compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule; and
- Establish ongoing monitoring and quality assurance processes that will ensure all settings providing HCBS continue to remain fully compliant with the rule in the future.

### **Flexible Family Fund Rule and Manual**

The Flexible Family Fund (FFF) Rule and Manual were updated to reflect changes requested by the DD Council. The FFF Rule was promulgated on April 20, 2019, and the updated manual was approved by OCDD Assistant Secretary on May 1, 2019. As of May 15, 2019, all Local Governing Entities (LGEs) have completed training and implemented the new process.

### **Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration (My Place Louisiana) as of June 14, 2019 -- Cumulative Data**

Previously, My Place transitions were stopped as of December 31, 2018 in accordance with Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program rules. However, the program received an extension at the federal level which allowed states (such as Louisiana) with remaining grant funds to continue all operations including transitioning new participants. The remaining funds for My Place Louisiana will run out at the end of calendar year 2019. My Place is working to secure additional funds from a \$120M pool available to CMS for all states still participating in the demonstration.

- MFP activities provided:
  - Pre- and post-transition assistance requests total 573 with 281 My Place participants receiving assistance. (Note: Many participants have made multiple requests.)
  - Direct Service Worker (DSW) Specialization Training for 292 provider staff and family members
- Housing Relocation Assistance Program (HRAP) activities include:
  - 110 referrals were made for HRAP.
  - 32 families or individuals have moved into housing located by the contractors.
  - Another 70 people received lists of appropriate housing options for their review.
- Total of 492 people have transitioned to the community with My Place supports:
  - New Opportunities Waiver (NOW): 385 individuals
  - Children's Choice (CC) Waiver: 84 children
  - Residential Options Waiver (ROW - My Place): 9 children
  - Residential Options Waiver Pilot (ROW Pilot): 14 individuals

### **Access to Behavioral and Medical Intervention in the Community**

The following information outlines Resource Center (RC) activities inclusive of crisis referral and trends associated with placement requests to OCDD Central Office for the 2019 calendar year (covering the period of January 1, 2019 - June 13, 2019). Additionally, it provides a current update on the Resource Center and Local Governing Entity collaboration on the Non-Consensual Sexual Behavior (NSB) process as of June 13, 2019.

- For the period noted above there were 47 crisis referrals. Diversion efforts for 21% of these persons are underway, so these cases remain open at the current time and will not be included in the RC consultation or resolution data report. Out of the remaining 37 cases that have reached resolution, 40% of these individuals have required admission to Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (PSSC).
- Twenty-five out of thirty-seven cases (68%) received a crisis consultation from the Resource Center, with the ability to divert 68% of these individuals from long-term institutionalization. As noted prior, since some cases are still open and diversion efforts are underway, these cases are not included in this analysis. However, the Resource Center remains engaged in the cases to assure that no diversion efforts are missed.
- The last three year's trend relative to persons being referred from other more intensive and institutional-type settings has continued for the period noted above, with 55% of referrals coming from institutional/acute care settings. Further breakdown within these settings reveals that 46% of these referrals were from psychiatric hospital settings, 27% were for persons who were incarcerated, 12% were supported in ICF/IID settings, 12% were in an acute care setting, and 3% of persons were in a nursing facility at the point of referral.
- Efforts toward assuring that persons with a history and/or current challenges related to non-consensual sexual behavior (NSB) have access to the needed

supports remain ongoing. This period's data revealed that 217 persons are receiving follow-up by the local oversight team. During this quarter's reporting, one individual had a subsequent incident of NSB. This incident did not involve direct contact, and the individual was able to maintain the existing living option.

OCDD continues to collaborate with the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and Medicaid relative to triaging and coordinating services for persons with complex support needs. As noted in prior updates, OCDD in partnership with OBH was awarded a Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) grant to provide cross-system training and education for clinicians, administrators, and direct-support professionals to develop expertise to support persons with co-occurring intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) and mental health needs. Technical assistance and consultation sessions were completed for all behavioral health clinic sites for the participating Local Governing Entity (LGE), and this provider received the second incentive and Basic Training and Education Designation and also received the third incentive for increasing capacity in accepting and serving youth with IDD and mental health needs. The didactic training series for the selected Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) provider was also completed, and the intensive technical assistance and consultation phase remains in progress. An additional LGE completed the didactic training phase and the intensive technical assistance and consultation phase is in progress. A third LGE is arranging resources so that the didactic training phase can begin. The didactic training series was also recently completed in three areas of the state for private clinicians interested in pursuing an Individual Clinician Basic Training Designation.